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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 51-62 are currently pending prior to the amendments.

Claims 51-62 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 63-73 are being added.

After the amendments, claims 63-73 will be pending.

Listing of Claims:

1.-62. Canceled.

63. (New) A method for preparing a binding compound that comprises an antigen binding site from an antibody, wherein said antibody binds to:

- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;

said method comprising:

- (a) preparing candidate antibodies by using the IL-B30/p40 complex or a polypeptide that comprises at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the p40 subunit and at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the IL-B30 subunit, and
- (b) determining the specificity of the candidate antibodies using the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein, thereby identifying said antibody.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said binding compound is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

65. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein said binding compound is a neutralizing antibody.

66. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

67. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of selecting antibodies that bind to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein but not the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone.

68. (New) The method of claim 63 further comprising the step of depleting antibodies that bind to the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone.

69. (New) A method of preparing a binding compound that specifically binds to:
(i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit of human or murine origin, or
(ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;
wherein the binding compound does not bind the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone,
said method comprising selecting said binding compound from candidate binding compounds that bind to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein.

70. (New) The method of claim 69 wherein said binding compound is selected by immunoselection or immunodepletion.

71. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said binding compound is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

72. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein said binding compound is a neutralizing antibody.

73. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.